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LYCEUS THEATER.—"BleATER.—"Corrints."
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BAN FRANCISCO MINSTREIS.

BAS FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.
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New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1876. THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-The Russian Gen. Nikitin has arrived at Belgrade to take command of the Servian army. Russia has ordered her fleet to rendezvous at Otschakoff. Gen. Mejia considers that Gen. Diaz cannot remain in power in Mexico. = Gambetta's proposal to resist the Freuch Senate's

claims has been rejected in the Budget Committee. CONGRESS.-The Senate was not in session yesterday. == The House did little business, but occupied the time in debating a petition from Ohio in

regard to the electoral vote. DOMESTIC.-The President's message on extradition is published, showing that the treaty is again in this matter. The success of either candioperative by England's request. ____ The vote in date has ceased to be their chief concern. for Governor, and one Democratic Congressman is elected; the returns show a majority for Hayes. The Buffalo Board of Trade asks a reduction of tolls on the canal in order to retain New-York's commercial position. = Telegraph Manager Barnes has been arrested, and is being sent on to Washington.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.-Prominent business men signed a memorial to Congress calling for patriotic and not partisan action concerning the Presidential count. = The Cox committee closed its work in New-York, after taking more testimony about fraudulent registration and voting, and about Mr. Hewitt's mail. ____ More "straw-bail" men were arrested, and it is believed that the gang is broken up. = Delegates to the new Tammany General Committee were chosen. = Gold, 1071s, 107. 1071s. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the close, 93310 cents. Stocks irregular but lower, clos-

THE WEATHER.—THE TRIBUNE'S local observations indicate partial but increasing cloudinesss. and little change of temperature.

Hereafter Mr. Cox and Mr. MacDongall will do their quarreling in the City of Brotherly

The House of Representatives had a brief attack of common sense yesterday. It was when Mr. Chittenden put an end with a few judicious words to two bours of political

By annulling the decree which reduced the interest on the public debt one-half, the Turks concede that honesty is at least the best policy. Until, however, they resume payment of any part of their debts they will not be trusted by foreign investors.

Gen. Mejia's opinion that Gen. Diaz cannot remain at the head of the Mexican Government is entitled to consideration, inasmuch as he was eleven years Minister of War, and advised Mr. Lerdo to be satisfied with one term. While the duration of Gen. Diaz's dictatorship is thus in question he cannot expect our Goverament to recognize him as the lawful ruler.

At the other end of the canal they are swake to the need of action. The Buffalo Board of Trade demands a reduction of tolls "to a point only sufficient to keep the canals "in repair," discarding the idea "of any rev-"enue to the State being derived therefrom "in the future." This proposition will commend itself to those who see the necessity of utilizing a channel by which transportation is and can be made so cheap.

Should the shade of Mr. Pickwick be anywhere in the neighborhood-and he is likely to have kept on traveling after death, if indeed he ever died-he will be gratified to know that in one city at least the straw-bail business, which once excited his abhorrence, seems to have been broken up. Nearly a dozen of the ringleaders are in jail, and the authorities think they have succeeded at least in interrupting for a good interval this business of perjury for a consideration. It is too profitable, however, to be long suspended, and ordinary excitement of political rivalry has round saying their late candidate is "as cold verted to the Salt Lake confession. That, we

false oaths at the old low rates.

Mr. Augustus Schell, is one of the Western Union Executive Committee. The latest proposition is that the House shall declare that illustrious body as in an aggregate contempt. Mr. Schell ambling to jail at the order of the Democratic House would be a sublime illustration of non-partisan firmness. Perhaps the fact that E. D. Morgan, A. B. Cornell, and William Orton would go along with this distinguished gang would nerve the courage of the House. Perhaps Gov. Tilden would shed tears when he remembered how Mr. Schell conducted himself at St. Louis. Perhaps.

President Grant's message to Congress, with accompanying documents on the subject of the Extradition treaty, adds little to what is already unofficially known of the determination of England to abandon its position. While the message says that the British Government desires "not to be understood to re-"cede from the interpretation which, in its previous correspondence it had put upon the "treaty," this can hardly mean that there is any serious intention of reasserting that interpretation in the negotiations for a new treaty. The surrender of Brent and the attempt to rearrest and deliver Winslow and Gray seem to show that this is scarcely more than a diplomatic phase for actual retreat.

The agony is over. The Board of Canvassers has met in Florida, in obedience to the order of the Supreme Court, and has canvassed the vote for State officers. By the rejection of the vote of a single county Mr. Drew, the Democratic candidate for Governor, is given a majority of 195, and one Democratic Congressman is declared elected. But the vibrations of this Democratic victory. will stop at the borders of Florida. This same canvass, if applied to the vote for electors, would leave Gov. Hayes's majority at 209. This is not questioned by any one; there are no protests, no charges of fraud. Florida has ceased to be a disputed State, and her four votes for Hayes will be counted without a

Whether there shall be peace or war still depends on the attitude of England. It was in her power to avert the Crimean war, and it likewise rests with her to settle peaceably the pending conflict. If her Government allows the Turks to entertain any hope that the army and navy of England will uphold them against Russia, the Porte will undoubtedly reject the proposed reforms, and plunge the country into war. The British policy is still in doubt. Lord Salisbury has advised the Sultan to accept the terms proposed by the Conference, but a semi-official journal in London declares that his counsel must not be treated as an ultimatum. Almost identical steps marked the approach to the Crimean war. Lord Stratford formally advised the Porte to accept a note which would have satisfied Russia, but he allowed the Porte to discover that it might safely adopt a different course. Accordingly it did so, and was upheld by both France and England. The contemplated sailing of the British fleet from Besika Bay and the appreaching departure of Sir Henry Elliot afford promise that England is resolved to convince the Turks this time of Lord Salisbury's sincerity. Had England's conduct been as consistent as that of France, there could be no doubt as to her intentions.

The petition of New-York business men to Congress for a non-partisan decision upon the disputed Presidency is the same in spirit if not in words with that of the merchants of Philadelphia printed only the other day. The new memorialists comprise the solid men of New-York without distinction of party-bankers, capitalists, business men in all branches of trade. The men of millions are interested orida has been recanvassed; Stearns is defeated What they want now is a decision that shall impress the whole people with its honesty, so that neither party can prolong uncertainty and business depression by declaring that fraud in the voting or in the counting has been ratified by partisan action in Congress. We respectfully advise the men who are meditating tricks on either side to read this brief address, with the single fact in mind that the business men of New-York and Philadelphia, and every other city where like petitions have been signed, mean every word they say, and to read these lists of solid names with the further fact in mind that these men are our merchant princes. They are, as a class, eminently conservative and usually keep silent when there is nothing to say. That they should think it necessary now to petition Congress that in the settlement of this matter "all mere party considerations "may be thrown aside," is pretty conclusive proof that they feared that these same considerations would rule rather than be ruled. The two Houses may as well bear themselves ac-

TEN THOUSAND FOOLS. The Hon. Benjamin H. Hill has written a lively letter to a friend in Georgia defining his position with respect to the present complications in politics. The definition might perhaps have been a little clearer. Mr. Hill has no hesitation in declaring that if the candidate of his choice shall be "peacefully inaugurated" he will acquiesce in the result. What he will do in the not improbable result of the peaceby the aid of his previous utterances. He has sense in the midst of absurdities and excitement, and has been decorated by the abuse of a noisy faction of his own party because he counseled peace and patriotism while the Democratic "home guard" was clamoring for a new rebellion. He displayed indeed so much intelligence and public spirit a few weeks ago that we are both surprised and grieved to find in his later utterances some traces of unwholesome excitement. "The political situation." he says, "was never so critical as now. Our "constitutional system is on a magazine of powder, and ten thousand fools and some that are not fools are striking matches all " around it." And he avows his belief that we are in imminent danger of "the most horri-"ble civil war that ever disgraced and de-"stroyed liberty and humanity," Which is Mr. Hill, like a great many other Southern

gentlemen, has a large and generous way of talking. His speech sometimes sounds tremendous, but means very little. Nobody can point to the slightest indication of a purpose on either side to settle the dispute over the Presidency by armed violence; and yet Mr. Hill talks about an impending deluge of blood as confidently as if he heard already the rattle of drums and the popping of rifles. The people are quiet and self-possessed; even the

future Pickwicks will get plenty of offers of died away; a vast majority of American citizens, both North and South, are indifferent whether Hayes or Tilden be declared President, if only the declaration be honestly and lawfully made; however opinions may differ a e result of the November election, bot rties-we speak now of the great body or the people, not of the professional politicians-shrink from violence or fraud. What excuse has Mr. Hill for threatening a civil war when the whole country is resolutely bent upon peace and justice? Rhetoric is sometimes combustible. The surest way to create the danger of mob violence is to assume that the danger already exists. When Mr. Hill's ten thousand fools advise the defeated party to resist the execution of the laws, the defeated party only laughs at them. But create a belief that riot or revolt is imminent and you make riot or revolt comparatively easy.

Such foolish talk ought to be stopped. Our constitutional system is not in any special danger. On the contrary it is likely to be strengthened by the issue of the pending controversy, whatever that issue may be. The events of the past month have proved that the American people have enough civic virtue to preserve the Constitution unshaken under one of the severest strains to which it could be subjected. "If ever the tranquillity of the nation is to be "disturbed," said Kent, "and its liberties en-"dangered by a struggle for power it will be "upon the subject of the choice of a President." A case such as Kept supposed has arisen; there is a disputed election; yet nobody really dreams of a "struggle for power." It is understood on all sides that either party which should obtain possession of the Presidency by fraud or violence would thereby sign its death warrant. If a wrong is to be committed the people are content to leave the punishment of it to the peaceful agency of the ballot; and meanwhile they will provide by an amendment of the laws against a recurrence of the disorder. So far from dreading a civil war because ten thousand fools are uttering their folly, we feel renewed confidence in the strength of a government supported by the wisdom and moderation of forty millions.

"COLD AS A CLAM."

It pains us to hear that the Democratic statesmen who have been in communication recently with their late candidate for the Presidency are commenting unfavorably upon the personal characteristics of that eminent representative of Reform. They say he is not magnetie; that he is bloodless; that he does not draw men to him; that he does not kindle, never seems to "warm up" to anything or anybody; that he is fishy; and some of them, we understand, have expressed themselves with an emphasis liable to be mistaken for profane, in the remark that "he is as cold as a dam clam." We have heard before of the Little Neck clam, the Guilford clam, the Duxbury clam, the hard clam and soft clam, the long clam, round clam, and quahaug, but the "dam clam" is a species new to us. We do not know whether he is caught above the dam or below the dam, but we infer that he wouldn't be called a "dam clam" unless he lived somewhere in a mill stream by a dam site. The "dam clam," whatever his habits or his habitat, we judge must be unusually cold; else why the comparison? For the ordinary purposes of illustration the ordinary clam has hitherto been deemed sufficient. The average clam, not any specific but the generic clam, notwithstanding his proverbial closeness, has generously given his name to a sensation: the world long ago learned to describe an otherwise indescribable touch as clammy," and the sensation experienced as a feeling of clan.miness. But here seems to be an extraordinary case demanding an extraordinary figure. And so these statesmen, with a fine discrimination and a remarkable recognition of the powerlessness of language and the poverty in illustration of familiar speech, hit upon this unusual clam as the only living creature competent to convey the idea of the candidate. So when the visiting statesmen returned from their fruitless search in Gramercy Park for something to kindle the Democratic bosom and electrify the country, they could only say in answer to the inquiries of the earnest patriots who are waiting an opportunity to reform the Government from the mside, "Oh! he won't do anything; he's as cold as a dam clam." And though they didn't gather much political information, they do deserve credit for enriching the language with a new figure of speech, and possibly the markets with a new kind of clam.

And yet we cannot but regret that the Democratic statesmen should speak so disrespectfully of their late leader; for we do think it is not altogether respectful to compare him with a dam clam or any other kind of clam, whatever may be the merits of that happy bivalve. It was so little time ago that they were all calling him "Uncle Sammy," and applying to him other terms of affectionate endearment. The change seems sudden and abrupt. There's a very wide difference between "Sammy" and "clammy," and they who called him "Sammy" before election ought not to begin calling him 'clammy" so soon afterward, just because he happened to be defeated. Gov. Tilden does not, it is true, impart a glow of enthusiasm to the average Democrat who picks him up in conversation. He does not habitually magnetize people, unless his putting people to sleep when he strikes out on a monologue upon some favorite theme may be called ful inauguration of the other man he omits to | magnetism. His manner is not at all that of say. But Mr. Hill's letter must be interpreted Col. Bob Ingersoil, and is somewhat different from that of John B. Gough. distinguished himself by calmness and good The late James Buchanan, we are told, was open to the same objection. It may be because neither of them ever married. However that may be, the party leaders knew what Gov. Tilden was when they nominated him. They knew he was cold, though perhaps they had not discovered then how cold he was, and that it would be necessary to hunt up the dam clam for a comparison. But because he turns out to be colder than they supposed is no reason for their "going back on him." And if he is a disappointment to them now, what would be have been if he had been elected, and been obliged to meet the whole Democratic party face to face and answer their applications for office with his stereotyped "I'll see you later"? The disappointment of the Southern Democrats came earlier, when his letter on the Southern war claims appeared. But they took it with becoming philosophy. When one of them was asked what he was going to do, he answered, "Why, we can't do any hing. We're in the same fix with the

"fellow down in Texas years ago, who, having

"as a dam clam." We must say we think it is unbecoming.

GOVERNMENT AND THE CABLE COM-

PANIES. We are glad to find that the public on this side of the Atlantic are becoming alive to the interest they have in the conditions under which their cable communications with Europe should be maintained. We have been too long the victims of British financiers who take advantage of the power which capital gives them to disregard the interests of the citizens of the United States, forgetting that England does not enjoy a monopoly either of money or of enterprise, and that the more arrogantly it exercises the power which for the moment it may control, the more speedily will the public, and

if need be the Government of the United States, take steps to limit it. We cannot forget that our shores are our own, and our readers may remember that the rights claimed by the Government in its dealings with cable companies were very markedly alluded to in the President's message last year. The prominence given to this subject was the more striking as at that moment the occasion did not appear to have arisen when any action on the part of the Government seemed likely to be needed. Now, however, we are threatened with a combination of monopolists which makes it extremely desirable that the policy so clearly laid down in that message should be carried into effect, and that we should not a second time be duped into granting a cable company permission to land on the express understanding that it enjoyed no monopoly rights, and then after the privileges had been secured see ourselves victimized by the absorption of the independent company into the monopoly company.

This was the case with the French Cable Comoany. It was not permitted by the Government o land its cable at Duxbury until it had entered into an understanding to abandon all exclusive rights or privileges. One of these was the exclusive right of landing on the French island of St. Pierre. Another was the exclusive privilege in France of all undirected messages over the French land lines. Upon promising to abandon both these privileges, the French Company was allowed to land. The exclusive right of landing at St. Pierre was relinquished, but to this day they retain their exclusive privileges over the French land lines, while they have become amalgamated with the Anglo-American Company, which enjoys the exclusive right of undirected messages over the Government telegraph lines throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the monopoly of landing on the shores of Newfoundland. The French Company has therefore at this moment more monopoly rights than it enjoyed when the United States Government allowed it to land only on the express condition

that those rights should be abandoned. And now the Direct Cable Company, which obtained permission to fand at Rye Beach because it had no monopoly rights and was prevented from ever having them by a clause in its charter, is to be transformed into another company, the clause under which it obtained its landing rights is to be omitted, and the Government is to be again duped by seeing it merged into the companies possessing all the rights we have enumerated, and which have already rendered any competition so hazardons and difficult an operation. We sincerely hope that we may have some decided assurance from the Government that it will not tolerate a repetition of the fraud practiced by the French Company. The conditions laid down in the President's message as being essential before the privilege of landing should be granted, were, first, that the company applying to land should enjoy no exclusive privileges, and second, that it should not amalgamate with any other company; and it is in the power of the Government, as we maintain that it would be its duty, to let it be clearly understood that if the proposed amalgamation between the Direct Company and the Anglounusual clamminess of the late Democratic American takes place the Rye Beach cable would be ordered to suspend operations, and the cable which is landed there would no longer be available for telegraphic purposes. This would bring the financial rings in London, who seem to forget that there is either a Government or a public in America, to their senses, and insure the continuance of that competition from which the public have of late so largely benefited.

> ORSON HYDE'S VIEW OF THE CASE. We print in another column a letter which is at least curious, in which Mr. Orson Hyde sets forth his opinion that all our national troubles have come upon us as Divine judgments, because of our hardness of heart in rejecting the religion devised by Joseph Smith. Nor is this all. To the same stubborn skepticism is to be attributed the fact that (according to Mr. Hyde) the ocean is behaving itself in a very tumultuous manner, while fires are devastating the land, storms are arising and winds are blowing, and the money market is incommonly tight. Nor is this all. Our own nation is "on the verge of anarchy and governmental wreck;" and all this trouble and disorder have come of the murder of Mr. Joseph Smith a great many years ago, and of our failure to recognize in Mr. Brigham Young

an anointed Prophet of the Lord. If this question were to be considered as a mercly temporal one, and with no reference to its supernatural aspects, we might reasonably inquire what possible influence the skepticism of the American people could exercise over meteorological phenomena. But we know very well that the Mormon would meet us with the assertion that Mormonism is of God, and that He works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. Our only resource would then be to deny in toto the heavenly inspiration of Mormonism. This would leave us nearly as we were at the beginning, except that we should still have the right to insist that the American people ought not to be punished for despising a religious scheme so full of fraud and of absolute absurdity. Mr. Hyde might retort that Christianity was to Jew and to Gentile foolishness. A fair answer to this would be that we are neither Jews nor Gentiles, but professors of Christianity, and that viewed in the light of Christianity his religion does not seem to us to be worthy of the respect of the rational, or the reverence of the devout, or the confidence even of the skeptical. After this there would be nothing for Mr. Hyde to say, except once more to call upon the elements, fire and water and air, still more stringently to vindicate the plenary inspiration of the Mormon Bible and the saintly character of himself and of Brigham Young. We dislike to speak disrespectfully of any

committed a murder, was advised by a friend form of religious belief, and if any argument "to run away. 'Run away!' said the fellow; " ' where in - can I run to ? I'm in Texas against Mormonism were necessary, we should "' now.'" The Southern brethren accepted not here engage in it. We shall therefore simply express our hope that the settlement the situation as they had learned to. Why cannot their associates, the leaders of the of the Presidential question is not to be deferred until the whole nation has been con-Northern Democracy, be as wise, and not go

fear, would be altogether too much like an indefinite postponement. The chances are infinitely small that this strange mixture of absurdity, of selfishness, of ignorance, and of impurity will ever become the general faith of the American people, or of more than a handful in a corner. This is the presumption, whatever may be the dire result; nor would it be much altered or modified even though Latter Day Saintship possessed a considerably larger portion of respectability. The majority are just as likely to turn Brahmins or Mohammedans as Mormons; and if the nation is to be overthrown for adhering to Christianity and for declining to accept Mr. Young's polygamous farrago, it will be punished for refusing to consider the impossible as possible, the vicious as virtuous, and the improbable as a probability. We suspect that Mr. Hyde's letter will frighten nobody.

A MORAL FROM MYKENÆ.

Whether or not the body of the man with and head, large eyes, and thirty-two fine teeth, unearthed by Dr. Schliemann, be that of the veritable anax andron, Agamemnon, it is at least certainly a Greek warrior-chief who cannot have received sepulture at a much later period than that ascribed to the Trojan war. There can hardly be a doubt that the tombs which have now yielded up their marvelous treasures are the same which were famous when Mykenæ was depopulated and destroyed, 2,340 years ago, and described by Pausanias, nearly six and a half centuries later. The discovery, therefore, carries back the Homeric tradition to a period of not less than three thousand years ago, and justifies us in accepting historic originals for the characters of Agamemnon, Clytemnestra, and that strong-minded Trojan, Cassandra. Their names may have been different: the events in which they were actors may be partly invented; but we now know that those names and events were tamiliar to the people, at a period not further removed from the Trojan war than we are from the Discovery of America.

One single circumstance accounts for Dr. Schliemann's illustrious success: he believes in Homer. When, after all his labors, privations and pecuniary sacrifices in the Troad, he announced to the world that he had uncovered the Scæan Gate of Troy, and called the store of golden ornaments which he found in the adjoining citadel "the treasure of Priam," a general smile passed over classically-educated circles, and many scholars were ready with sneering comments. The question whether Hissarlik or Bounarbashi was the site of Troy was again vehemently discussed, especially by those who had never visited either place. The discoverer's faith in Homer was referred to as a weakness which cast doubt upon the trustworthiness of all his statements. But, little by little, his views in regard to the site of Troy have won the respect to which they are entitled. Mr. Gladstone, in his last work, "The Time and "Place of Homer," unreservedly accepts them. But, if doubt and ridicule could have clouded his enthusiasm, Dr. Schliemann never would have opened his trenches at Mykenæ. Should he now announce that he has found the veritable bodies of Agamemnon and Cassandra, there will be fewer sneers. The discovery is so astonishing and important as to silence mucl of the former incredulity.

It is very easy to make a man's intense, pervading faith in a purpose or a principle appear ridiculous; but there is in reality no more precious element in the economy of the world. There is a very general tendency, in this country, to brand any appearance of earnestness, or enthusiastic devotion, as "senti-'mentalism," and to characterize the expression thereof as "gush." More than one journal which circulates among our young men, and aims to shape their views of social and political life, steadily and contemptuously disparages any utterance of warm and vigorous feeling, itself setting the example of condemning with limitless assumption of authority, yet never praising without reservation. We are in danger of forgetting that there is nothing nobler or manlier than a line enthu siasm. A little excess of faith is far less needful to be suppressed or concealed than the readiness of a carping spirit or the flippancy of assumed wisdom. A young man who has taught himself how not to admire, or to believe except in negations, or to feel beyond certain defined limits, has already lost the best part of his life. Better that faith should be sometimes diluted into "sentiment," and the utterance of strong feeling occasionally degenerate into "gush," than lose the fire that melts obstacles and fuses the crude ore of life into implements and weapons. Nil admirari is the motto of a heartless and godless

THE WAR ON THE MILKMEN.

Some moral economists contend that the total deprayity of the New-York milkman is caused by his resolute and undeviating use of an unprincipled pasteboard currency. It seems more rational, however, to consider the inconvertible milk-ticket a manifestation of inherent sinfulness rather than its efficient cause, and to hold that this dissolute circulating medium angurs but does not engender the milkman's phenomenal unrighteousness. The most reasonable supposition is that his moral constitution and by-laws are undermined by the pernicious habit of early rising to which he is more intemperately addicted than most of his fellow-beings. It is highly probable, to say the least, that if the most exemplary citizen should tear himself loose from the sweet persussions and gently restraining influences of civilized society, and abandon himself to the debauching practice of rising at 1 o'clock a. m., he would speedily become abnormally healthy and wealthy, and wise and wicked. But however this may be, it is a recognized fact that the ethical system of the milkman is so elastic that it can luxuriously accommodate methods and processes which would hardly find a comfortable lodgment in the most expansive and adjustable codes of other tradesmen. It is true that chalk and alum and plaster are sold to the poor for bread, and poisoned poisons are pestled behind the colored lights of the "pharmaceutist," and vitriol madness lurks in the mixed drinks of the period, and it is arsenite of copper which adds the delicate shade to assorted pickles and green tea, while the cosmetics which give to confectionery its healthy complexion are said to be unwholesome. But all artists in adulteration who turn out neat work retain some residuary virtee and are willing to pay for their raw material. Even the sand which adds grit and gravity to brown sugar is not stolen by the corner groceryman, and all these adulterants are in this way remotely connected with the wholesale and retail negotiations of the world by voluntarily placing themselves under the moral restraint of promises to pay. Besides this their traffic is carried on under the searching glare of daylight, and the wary purchaser is privileged to dicker and transfer his custom

and get trusted and make assignments, and wield to the full those natural rights and powers by exercising which commercial enterprise is animated with its healthful and exasperating uncertainty.

But the conquering career of the milkman is

fettered by no such commonplace embarrassments. The sole tie which binds him to the incumbering usages of commercial man is the chattel mortgage on his horse and wagon; and the horse invariably dies and his wagon lies a stove and stranded wreck upon some curbstone before a possible foreclosure. He taps the fluent beneficence of the nearest hydrant for supplies, and then evades his water rates. He never trusts his victim, but makes sure that his tickets are plenteously redoemed before he will accept them as a legal tender. No competition intimidates him, for he owns his "route" in fee simple and assassinates every presumptuous trespasser, so that the milk consumer is bullied into the consumption of the mysterious fluid which he chooses to deliver. True, there remains the disheartening alternative of buying a brick of desicented milk, which must be brayed in a mortar like any other medicine, or he can put up with a weekly mass of that yellowish and ropy ointment known as the "condensed milk" of commerce. But few Christians are content to take their milk in a pulverized or viscous form. No cow of correct habits is addicted to giving dry milk or mucilaginous milk, and the very apparent fluidity of the milkman's delivery exacts from the imagination a less exhaustive effort to connect it in some remote way with green pastures, distended udders, and all that. With all these advantages, and still further sheltered by the darkness, the milkman goes forth on his devastating anabasis. His chariot, which is constructed so as to make more noise and wake up more people than any other form of nocturnal disturbance which has yet been devised. is clothed with terror as it rattles through the streets, and, plunging with a bloodthirsty whoop into the areas of defenseless consumers on his "route," he disseminates a saturated solution of assorted zymotic diseases at twelve cents a quart in advance, reckless of chemical analysis or specific levity or principalities or powers or the course of exchange or the balance of trade or hight or depth or any other creature. But the trial now in progress is symptom-

atic of a gathering rebellion. Long years ago Sir Isaac Newton invented the attraction of gravitation, and the fragile hydrometer has proved the stimulating potency of unnumbered demijohns; but never until now has the Board of Health mustered the hardihood to brandish this weapon in the face of the aggressive milkman. Science has now dared to step forward and assert that with this searching implement it can be determined whether our milk is mixed to order or secreted by the mammary glands of the domestic cow, and what percentage of real milk is contained in any dilution, and whether the cow which produced this fraction is an Ayrshire or a native, and whether she is fed on wheat shorts or brewery grains, or the febrifacient and diphtheretic slop, and what her hide and tallow are worth, and what particular method of counting the electoral vote her owner has discovered. But the milkman is fighting to the bitter end. The Doremus family will prove that the gravity of milk is not very specific after all; that some cows are known to give ice-cream, some buttermilk, some H O straight; that there are to be seen in sample-rooms the chromos of some bright bay and chestnut sorrel cows which are advertised to furnish a fair article of milk-punch, and that occasionally an apparently respectable cow flavors her milk in a most disgraceful way with wild garlie and malaria.

The battle hangs in even scale. The milkman pretends to be unconcerned, but he is really thoughtful and discouraged. For three or four nights past his wagon rolls in silence as if shod with wool. His whoop has lost its old defiance. He has a growing respect for the placid quadraped whose secretions he has disguised and drowned. He even thinks of compromise, and is willing to leave the whole matter to the Supreme Court or a joint non-partisan committee from both houses of Congress. He denies the right of Mr. Cronin to dilute himself into an electoral college, and declares that he is opposed to every form of homeopathic attenuation. We are encouraged to hope that these apprehensions of the milkman will prove well grounded. He may suppress this lactometric revolt, but revolutions never go backward. There will be fresh uprisings against his tyranny; for freedom's battle once begun, bequeathed by bleeding sire to son, though baffled oft is ever two to one in favor of the bleeding sire.

A RUMOR OF YESTERDAY.

Respectable savings banks and life insurance companies have latterly come to grief with somewhat startling rapidity. The last insurance failure reveals a previous series of falsification in accounts which is so prodigious that it is freely spoken of as being "perjury" on the part of the officers of the company. The specific charge of that offense against them may not be justified, but they will have to display much greater ability than they did while managing the company's business if they can now explain the marvelous discrepancy between their sworn statements and the facts. In nearly all the recent suspensions of savings banks, the condition of their affairs has been found worse than was at first hoped, and some of them make very discreditable exhibits. The public is not especially to blame if, under such circumstances, it gives a ready credence to rumors of fresh disaster. It is not at all surprising that many persons accepted yesterday the story that was traveling from lip to hp through the city, that there had been a large defalcation in the oldest of our savings banks.

Yet in any case such a story should have been received with great hesitation. It is certain that the Bleecker Street Savings Bankas it is popularly called, though that is not its exact title-has a surplus over its liabilities that amounts to over \$3,500,000; so that for everydollar that it can be called on to pay, it can show more than \$1 16 to pay with. The opportunity for defalcation is evidently very small, since the funds of the concern are kept closely invested, the cash on hand at the date of the last annual statement being considerably under \$50,000. But there was far more than all the evidence of statements to be considered. It is well known that this old bank was founded many years before the high pressure system of creating savings banks had come into fashion. It was organized for the sole purpose of inducing the poorer classes to form habits of thrift and economy. For several years its officers received no pay for their services. All the traditions and all the system of the bank had one great object in view to which everything else yielded-that the savings intrusted to it should be safe. If any measure of human